Government of Saskatchewan

Annual Report 1989-90

Saskatchewan Rural Development

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Annual Report 1989-90

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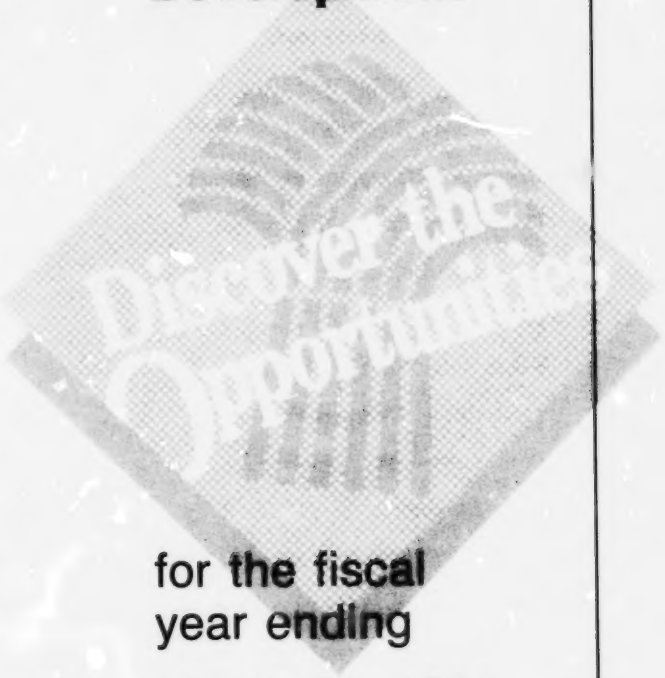

for the fiscal year ending

March 31, 1990

3085 Albert Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 0B1

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Contents

Letters of Transmittal iii

Organization Chart iv

Deputy Minister's Message 1

Mission and Principles 2

Rural Service Division 3

- Community Development Services 4
- Community Planning Services 5
- Extension Service 6
- Lands 9
- Rural Service Centres 13

Transportation Services Division 14

- Bridge Services 15
- Ferry Services 17
- Road Services 20
- Transportation Planning 29

Management Services Division 35

- Administrative Services 36
- Communication Services 37
- Drafting Services 37
- Systems Services 38
- Municipal Finance and Advisory Services 38
- Municipal Grants 42
- Board of Examiners 43

Letters of Transmittal

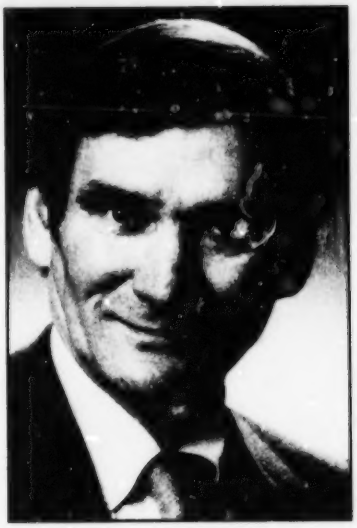
The Honourable Sylvia Fedoruk,
Lieutenant Governor,
Province of Saskatchewan

Your Honour:

I have the honour of submitting the annual report of the Department of Rural Development for the year ending March 31, 1990.

Respectfully submitted,

Neal H. Hardy
Minister of Rural Development



Honourable Neal H. Hardy
Minister of Rural Development

The Honourable Neal H. Hardy,
Minister of Rural Development,
Regina, Saskatchewan

Sir:

I wish to present to you the annual report for the Department of Rural Development for the twelve months ending March 31, 1990.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Reader,
Deputy Minister of Rural Development

Bill Reader
Deputy Minister
of Rural Development

Organization Chart

Deputy Minister's Message

The continuing effort to diversify and expand rural Saskatchewan's economy is an important priority for the Department of Rural Development. Many new initiatives and programs have been implemented, during this fiscal year, to meet our goals.

These programs are intended to expand the level of service and hands on information available to rural residents of Saskatchewan in such areas as agriculture, economic development, and diversification.

The Municipal Economic Development Capital Grant Program allows local Rural Municipalities to actively participate towards the development and diversification of their local economies.

Several requirements, including creation of new jobs, new and expanded markets and increased rural municipal assessment, provide the qualifying criteria. Rural Municipalities may use this grant money to purchase a formal or informal equity position in privately owned, approved for profit businesses and/or financially facilitate the establishment and expansion of approved businesses.

During the past year, Rural Development has continued to foster excellent working relationships with the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities and the Rural Municipal Administration Association. By maintaining positive, ongoing dialogue with these and other rural based organizations, the department maintains its accessibility to grassroots input from rural citizens and communities.

The Rural Service Centre initiative is an excellent example of this productive relationship. The 1989-90 fiscal year saw the opening of many new rural service centres throughout the province, thereby bringing the total number of officially opened centres to 44. These facilities offer expanded services for rural residents. Program information is available for a variety of subjects including agriculture, economic development, diversification, crop insurance and agricultural lending.

Our mission statement, "Building together for a strong and prosperous rural community", reflects commitment for an economically strong rural Saskatchewan through expanded services and opportunities. I am confident that our role in these initiatives offers a solid foundation toward this reality.

Rural Development is proud to face the challenges of the 1990's. Together, we will strive to achieve a solid service and economic base for all Saskatchewan residents.

Mission and Principles

Mission:

Building together for a strong and prosperous rural community.

Principles:

As an organization, we believe in:

— encouraging sustainable economic development, both industrial and agricultural, in every community

— encouraging local autonomy, strong local government, and economic growth through local initiative and leadership

— assisting municipalities in developing and maintaining transportation systems

— providing quality, responsible and effective service and information

— promoting the research, development and adoption of improved technology and practices

— developing natural resources through a responsible balance between level of utilization and conservation

— encouraging co-operation, co-ordination and communication within public and private sectors

— enhancing our province's human resources by providing information, developing skills, and delivering programs

Rural Service Division

Community Development Services

For the year in review, Community Development Services provided a range of social and economic development programs and services to small centres and rural municipalities in the province, and thus assisted them to maintain their viability as communities and securing their future to the greatest degree possible. Branch activities are geared to achieve wide distribution of the province's social and economic growth and diversification opportunities, ensuring that all communities, regardless of size, location or status, will share in development as much as possible and practical. The key objectives were enhanced local autonomy, development, diversification and job creation.

The branch offered advice and guidance to municipalities seeking it; provided programs, which included grants to community economic development committees, rural development corporations and rural municipalities; compiled, published and distributed information on selected communities and areas through community profile programs; assisted potential entrepreneurs, through interviews, inter-agency co-ordination and referrals to appropriate community economic development committees, rural development corporations, R.M.s and A.D.D. Boards; recognized community based initiatives to foster social and economic development in rural areas; and strengthened rural community leadership through training publications and seminars to better understand the development process, to better address development issues and to undertake community based initiatives.

During the 1989-90 fiscal year the following were undertaken:

— 350 municipalities received advice respecting social and economic development processes and opportunities through meetings, telephone conversations and written correspondence.

— The new six year Municipal Economic Development Capital (MEDC) Grant Program was initiated. The program will enable R.M.s to financially assist private for-profit businesses which emphasize manufacturing and value added operations. R.M.s are allowed and encouraged to take an equity position when assisting businesses. This provision makes the program unique in Canada. A total of 71 grant applications were received and resulted in grants totalling $198,530.

— A new Project Development Co-ordinator (PDC) service was established to assist developers with specific projects, by providing information and project management expertise. The new unit, when fully staffed, will include a manager and seven PDCs who will be located in Rural Service Centres in Maple Creek, Watrous, Wolseley, Hudson Bay, Spiritwood, Gravelbourg and Wilkie. The new PDC service has met a need as over 200 project inquires have been processed.

— Ongoing staff assistance was provided to 55 community economic development committees. A total of six to eight meetings were held with each committee.

— Grants totalling $138,100 were provided to community economic development committees.

— 11 new rural development corporations were established during the year to bring the total to 20. Meetings were held to discuss the establishment of 43 additional rural development corporations.

- 4 meetings for rural development corporation chairpersons were hosted by the branch.
- Grants totalling $650,000 were provided to rural development corporations.
- The branch met with private sector consultants to improve rural development corporation contracting procedures.
- A training manual consisting of 14 modules for community economic development committees and rural development corporation directors was produced by branch staff. Pilot program delivery was initiated.
- Regionalized staff provided assistance in six centres.
- Co-ordinated activities and programs with other provincial and federal agencies including the Departments of Agriculture and Food, Public Participation, Economic Diversification and Trade, SEDCO, Northern Affairs Secretariat, Indian and Native Affairs Secretariat, Saskatchewan Research Council, Consumer and Commercial Affairs, Urban Affairs, Highways and Transportation, Canada Employment and Immigration, and the Western Diversification Office.
- Improved CORA, the Catalogue of Opportunities for Rural Areas and assisted in its distribution via the Rural Service Centres.
- Participated at 23 major trade shows and events with a department display to promote information programs, and opportunities provided by the community economic development committees and rural development corporations.

The branch's programs continue to generate considerable interest and involvement among residents, developers and municipalities of rural Saskatchewan. Many requests have been received for the Community Economic Development Program. Additional communities will be added with the original group of towns being phased out of the program over time. The rural development corporation concept is continuing to progress with a number of new signings scheduled for 1990-91.

Branch programs were administered from offices in Regina, Saskatoon, Yorkton, Tisdale, Swift Current, Gravelbourg and North Battleford.

Community Planning Services

During the year under review, Community Planning Services assisted the province's 299 rural municipalities and 17 advisory district planning commissions with their responsibilities. *The Planning and Development Act, 1983*, the *Subdivision Regulations* and the *Dedicated Lands Regulations* provide the enabling legislation by which R.M. councils may adopt planning and zoning bylaws and manage development proposals.

Additional administrative responsibilities included *The Municipal Expropriation Act* as it pertained to rural municipalities; represented Rural Development in the environmental assessment review process; liaison with Urban Affairs respecting annexations; inter-municipal, rural and lake management planning programs; Qu'Appelle Valley land use planning; and the Abandoned Rail Line Disposition Program.

The statistics to the end of the 1989-90 fiscal year were:

- 17 advisory district planning commissions
- 3 District Development Plans
- 21 District Zoning Bylaws
- 19 Basic Planning Statements
- 30 R.M. Development Plans
- 142 R.M. Zoning Bylaws

— 13 R.M.s with Interim Development Control Bylaws

— 159 R.M. councils provided with planning assistance.

During 1989-90 fiscal year, planning bylaw adoption progress was as follows:

— 2 new Basic Planning Statements

— 2 new Zoning Bylaws

— 120 Zoning Bylaw amendments

— 3 Interim Development Control Bylaws

As joint responsibilities with other agencies, the following were completed:

— 45 environmental impact assessment reviews

— 15 urban/rural municipal boundary alterations

— 3 Urban Affairs subdivision referrals

— 46 land tender referrals

The Supervisor of Boundaries processed:

— 6 new organized hamlets

— 1 addition

— 1 name change

There were no orders processed to adjust boundaries for rural municipalities.

Current progress in the Abandoned Railway Right-of-Way Disposition Program is as follows:

— 65 local advisory committees are projected to be responsible for the management and disposition of abandoned railway right-of-way transferred to the province.

— 46 committees have successfully concluded their disposition duties.

Subdivision activity during 1989-90 was as follows:

— 1,227 subdivision proposals received

— 1,089 subdivision approvals issued

— 2 subdivisions refused

— 124 subdivision files closed

— 26 subdivision re-approvals

— 321 subdivision files active

— 13 public reserve status changes

Highlights of branch activity to the end of 1989-90 were as follows:

— The successful integration of the branch's community planning and community economic development activities within the Rural Service Network

— The participation of staff in managing the Rural Service Centre Network

— Further progress in abandoned railway right-of-way disposition

— The completion of several private consultant assisted lake management programs, development plans and zoning bylaws through grants totalling $38,123.

— The resolution of several long standing development and subdivision concerns

In summary, there continues to be significant rural municipal interest in development planning. R.M. requests for branch assistance to appropriately manage development are frequent. Ongoing co-ordination and consultation through the planning process ensure municipal autonomy, the enhancement of social and economic development and successful decision-making at the local level.

The branch maintained two regional offices in Regina and Saskatoon. Branch staff included six professional planners, five full-time planning technicians, two full-time clerk typists and one part-time clerk typist during the past year.

Extension Service

During the past fiscal year, Extension Service's mission statement remains:

"Agriculture and rural development through leadership, technology transfer and service"

The agricultural economy continues to be a major challenge to Extension Service. Staff, as agents of change, continued to meet this challenge and remain committed to building a strong and prosperous rural community.

Extension Service program efforts for this fiscal period were:

The Rural Service Network Initiative

The program can be broken into three major areas:

1. Operationalizing the Rural Service Centres.
2. Developing a cooperative working relationship with Rural Service Network partners.
3. Operationalizing the ADD structure.

During the year a number of Rural Service Centres saw renovations completed. Staff and client response was most positive to the new facilities. Extension staff took a lead role in developing a closer working relationship between branches and agencies within and outside the network.

In 1988, Extension Service was given the responsibility to establish 43 Agriculture, Development and Diversification Boards. Throughout 1989 staff carried out consultations with rural municipalities to discuss the ADD concept and assist in the incorporation of ADD Boards. Before the year's end, all 43 ADD Boards incorporated including participation of all 299 rural municipalities. The guidance, facilitation and organization given to rural municipalities in order to incorporate ADD Boards is recognized as a major achievement by staff. ADD Boards are important for administering funds for local project initiation and program delivery.

Development and Diversification

The transfer of knowledge in agricultural technology and management practices continues to be an important responsibility of the Extension Service. Traditional grain and livestock production continued to be important to the provincial economy, but Extension Service recognized the need to develop other opportunities. Farmers need to increase their income either from alternate sources or alternate agricultural strategies. Developing farmers' skills and knowledge to access opportunities are but a few of the goals of Extension Service. The branch also actively organized and participated in numerous initiatives to help clients think diversification, value added, new products, entrepreneurship, global markets and sound investment.

Several successful Development and Diversification conferences were held in Saskatoon, Humboldt, Swift Current, Weyburn, Lloydminster, North Battleford and Hudson Bay during the past fiscal year. Over 1,000 rural residents attended these conferences and the demand for more in 1990-91 will be met by Extension Agrologists and Specialists.

In Saskatoon, a symposium examined the various components of rural economic development and diversification. Internationally recognized planners, researchers, administrators and policy makers were invited as a resource to develop concrete strategies and proposals for rural economic development and diversification in Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan entrepreneurs were invited to tell their success stories at all the conferences. Recognized experts shared their knowledge on various aspects of doing business. A trade show complemented the presentations by focusing on programs and services aimed at future entrepreneurs in rural Saskatchewan.

Program Development and Delivery

Soils and Crops Specialists led Regional Soil Conservation teams to provide a framework for the adoption of the new $54 million Federal/ Provincial Canada-Saskatchewan Agreement on Soil Conservation. Staff worked together to put in place a process by which each ADD Board in the region has signed an operating contract with the Provincial Save Our Soils group. The ADD Boards hired Soils Technicians and had programs in the field early in the year.

Comprehensive Farm Management programming includes the Farming to Win course providing Farm Management teams with a better understanding of farm financial management and provides an opportunity to apply this knowledge. Objectives are accomplished by:

Education
— goal setting, financial analysis, planning and marketing.

Interaction
— meetings are held with groups of six to ten farm couples who are encouraged to share both information and ideas.

Consulting/Counselling
— each management team is entitled to six hours of private sector on-farm consulting. To date approximately 300 courses have been held and over 2,500 farmers have participated.

The Double Entry Accounting Records (DEAR) program, developed by East Central staff, provides farmers with effective accounting procedures. Marketing and Risk Analysis seminar and workshops provided alternative strategies and increased farmer awareness. Two marketing courses in the South East alone saw 130 farmers attend.

"Survival in the 90's" attracted 450 people to North Battleford. The trade show and program attracted a range of clientele, while "Challenging the 90's" offered 300 participants a window into United States Farm Policy, markets and management.

Rural Family — Developing Skills for Change emphasized improving interpersonal communications, financial statements and the business environment. Large numbers of rural women and couples attended.

Production programs detailed the latest technologies in crops, which included forage, and livestock management. The Glenbush Steer of the Year and the Fairlight Forage projects are two examples of production demonstrations.

Extension staff advised on over 125 Agricultural Demonstration sites funded by the Agriculture Development Fund. Kochia as a winter feed, orchard variety testing, herb and spice potentials and solar pump evaluations are all good demonstrations stimulating and challenging rural entrepreneurs.

The branch provided financial support to 4-H. Additionally, staff participated in several 4-H activities during the past year. Youth development is the key to the future. Grain clubs, grooming competitions and nutrition seminars provided Saskatchewan's youth with valuable experience. Other activities were also organized, such as winter rallies, curling and summer tours which provided opportunities for members to relax, mingle and learn.

Rural Development signed a new agreement with the Saskatchewan Indian Agricultural Program (SIAP). Extension continues to have an excellent working relationship with SIAP and look to each other for support in programming.

Client Service

In response to demand, staff made every effort to sense, serve and satisfy the needs and wants of its clients and general public. Listening, understanding and responding to

clients has resulted in unique and creative ways of servicing their evolving needs and expectations in all areas of agricultural production and diversification.

A high level of client service was maintained in the 1989-90 fiscal year through meetings, courses, office and farm calls, radio interviews, television appearances and regular columns in local newspapers.

Lands

During the past fiscal year, Lands administered provincial Crown agricultural land with the mission to enhance the provincial economy and serve the public interest through responsible Crown land management and promotion of proper land use.

The three major programs administered were: Crown land sales; the Provincial Community Pasture Program; and Crown land leasing. In addition, Lands was involved in utilizing Crown land for non-agricultural purposes such as sand and gravel quarrying, oil and gas leases and administering the disposition of abandoned rail line beds.

Program delivery was handled through decentralized administration with the province divided into four regions, each with a regional office: "northwest" — North Battleford; "northeast" — Tisdale; "southwest" — Swift Current; and "southeast" — Regina. During the reporting period there were 22 districts, with offices in Rural Service Centres, within the four regions each served by a land representative. Lands was a major contributor to the Rural Service Network with program information and several services available from any of the other Rural Service Centres.

As of March 31, 1990, Lands administers 8,380,694* acres compared to 8,668,850 acres as of March 31, 1989.

In recognition of the difficult economic conditions in rural Saskatchewan, often necessitating a second income by farmers, the criteria for assessing applicants for leases on non-farm income and limiting non-farm income for an applicant and spouse to $45,000 has been removed. As well, to assist operators in drought affected areas of the province, permission was granted for the 1989 season for lessees of Crown lands to pasture other farmer's cattle on their leases if space was available.

A new program for tender sales of Crown lands with potential for uses other than agriculture underwent development in 1989. These tenders were opened to the general public rather than being restricted to farmers as other Crown land tender sales have been. This program received little exposure in 1989-90, with a limited number of parcels sold. The new program is planned to be implemented regularly in the future as parcels of land are identified for sale.

Provincial Community Pasture patrons, who qualify, are now eligible to receive long-term, assured allocations in their local community pasture. This was implemented to provide patrons with the improved security of a supply of grazing space in their community pastures and also to consider longer range farm development plans.

**This acreage difference, as well as including sales of land, relates to an ongoing review of community pastures and corrections for titled acres appearing on the Crown Land Management System.*

Programs

Sale of Provincial Land

Type of Sale	Number of Sales	Acres Sold	Sale Price
Cash Sales to Lessees	81	36,514	1,680,139
*Time Sales	82	20,837	2,568,604
Tender Sales	159	32,579	4,217,237
Total	**322**	**89,930**	**8,465,980**

*Sales are not concluded and titles transferred until all installments are paid.

Comparison of Land Sales

(For the complete fiscal years 1988/89 and 1989/90)

	1988/89 Acres	1989/90 Acres	1988/89($)	1989/90($)
Tender Sales	81,595	32,579	12,943,958	4,217,237
Cash Sales	15,431	36,514	1,594,600	1,680,139
Time Sales	16,625	20,837	2,392,485	2,568,604
Total	**113,651**	**89,930**	**16,931,043**	**8,465,980**

Land Leasing

(As at March 31,1990)

Type of Lease	Number of Leases	Millions of Acres
Cultivated Leases	3,543	1.12
Grazing Leases	7,904	5.23
Hay Leases	555	0.09
Total	**12,002**	**6.44**

Community Pastures	1988/89	1989/90
No. of cattle pastures	54	54
No. of adult cattle	72,237	73,488
No. of calves	48,217	48,011
No. of patrons	2,534	2,467
No. of sheep pastures	2	2
No. of ewes	3,034	4,658
No. of lambs	1,088	3,691
No. of patrons	50	73

Abandoned Rail Line Program

Lands administers the disposition of abandoned rail rights-of-way transferred to the province, under separate agreements, from the federal government and the railway companies.

Currently, 49 of 52 abandoned rail subdivisions have been transferred to the province. This represents 973 miles of railbed totalling 14,993 acres. A total of 11,383 acres were transferred to private ownership while 13,243 acres were retained by the Crown for agricultural, parks or highway purposes.

The province is currently negotiating a further transfer agreement with Canadian Pacific Ltd.

Revenue

In the 1989-90 fiscal year, programs related to the lease, permit, and sale of crown agricultural lands, combined with the community pasture program, produced revenues of $34.3 million.

These revenues were transferred from the department as follows:

In 1989/90, the Farm Purchase Program Fund transferred $7.8 million. This sum compares with $8.9 million from the previous fiscal year (1988/89).

During the year under review, the Heritage Fund transferred $21.3 million. This amount compares with $24.5 million transferred in 1983/89.

The Consolidated Fund transferred $5.2 million during the 1989/90 fiscal year. This compares with $7.9 million transferred in the previous year.

In summary, $34.3 million were transferred by these noted programs during the year in review. This compares with $41.3 million transferred during the 1988/89 fiscal year.

In the previous fiscal year, Saskatchewan Rural Development programs generated total revenue of $41.3 million. The $7 million decrease in revenue, in 1989/90, arose from declines in land sale revenues, lease surrenders, lease cancellations, reductions in leasable lands arising from sales, and decreased utilization of community pastures.

Changes to Policy and Procedure

The Provincial Land Lease Allocation Policy

In recognition of the difficult economic conditions in the agriculture sector and the importance of non-farm income to the viability of many farm operations, the section of this policy in which the applicant is scored on his non-farm income and the maximum allowable non-farm income limit was removed from policy.

Additionally, the requirement that the applicant "spend a majority of his time managing and operating the farm" was adjusted to "actively manage the farm operation".

The following policies were also updated to incorporate one or more of these changes:

The Co-operative Grazing Policy

The Provincial Land Lease Renewal Policy

The Provincial Land Lease Assignment Policy

To facilitate the transfer of viable farm operations composed of deeded and leased lands between unrelated parties, the limit on the price of deeded lands, set at 115% of the appraised value of the land, was removed.

As well, an assignment of lease for eligible family members was extended to include ascending generations. This was done to assist

the family farm operation to remain viable despite the difficult financial situations some farm operations find themselves in.

Allowing exchanges of leased lands between operators was also introduced in 1989. This allows operators to consolidate their land holdings or to concentrate in one area of production. Both parties must request the exchange and there is no requirement that a portion of the deeded lands are acquired with the leases.

The Provincial Land Permitting Policy

Modifications to this policy occured to allow for the cataloguing of parcels of vacant Crown land previously advertised for tender permit for use in that year. This changed policy allows for rapid allocation of parcels that, for a number of factors, may be in low demand in that area and on which no successful bids were received when the land was tendered.

The Provincial Land Sale To Lessees Policy

The Provincial Land Sale to Lessees was amended in 1989/90 to allow for the assignment of agreements for sale to non-family members that are acquiring a portion of the deeded lands. This was introduced to assist in the transfer of viable farm units.

The Provincial Yardsite Sales To Lessees Policy

This policy, intended to assist lessees in purchasing occupied yard sites on provincial land under lease agreement, was introduced in 1989/90.

The lessee can purchase the actual yardsite area or the smallest subdivision of that quarter section allowable under local zoning bylaws but it cannot exceed 1 legal subdivision (40 acres). Under this policy, the lessee can chose a private appraiser to value the site or have the price set by the lands agrologist.

The lessee also has the option of having any arrears associated with this site added to the sale price and amortized over the term of the sale agreement rather than being required, as with other sales to lessees, to pay arrears prior to the signing of the sale agreement.

The Provincial Lands Tender Sale (Unrestricted) Policy

This policy, also introduced in 1989/90, was set up to allocate parcels of vacant land identified in conjunction with local RM's and Community Development and Planning Services as potentially having higher economic uses. Bidders for these parcels of land are not required to be farmers as is the case on other tenders of Crown agricultural lands.

The Agreement For Sale Payment Policy

This policy was set up to ensure timely payment of amounts billed to clients under their time sale agreements. Proceedings to cancel a sale agreement will only commence when the client is more than one year in arrears in payments. The client also has the option, under this policy, to surrender the sale agreement in favour of a long-term lease agreement on the land.

Provincial Community Pastures — Sheep Allocation, Management and Fee Schedule

Two major changes occurred to this policy in the 1989/90 fiscal year making it consistent with the policy for livestock allocations and fees at other community pastures. The method of charging fees for the grazing season was adjusted from a seasonal charge to a daily charge and increased to make it equivalent to the fees charged for cattle in community pastures.

Secondly, a long-term maximum allocation per producer was set at 250 adult head of sheep. This is equivalent to the long-term maximum allocation of 50 adult head of cattle in other community pastures.

Heritage Fund

Each year the branch receives rental payments from oil companies with surface leases on Crown land. Approximately $2 million is credited to the Heritage Fund, with an additional $300,000 credited to the Farm Purchase Program Fund.

The branch currently pays 30%, or about $650,000 annually, to the lessees affected by surface leases as compensation for loss of acreage earnings, inconvenience, etc. Only a very small number of branch clients (about 5%) receive this grant. In the event of property damage, lessees may negotiate directly with the oil company for compensation.

It is recognized that private landowners rarely pay compensation to their renters. The Department of Parks, Recreation & Culture has about 250 Petroleum and Gas leases and does not pay any compensation to the lessees. The branch, therefore, proposes to adjust this program by placing a ceiling on the amount of grant received by lessees; no grant shall exceed the amount of land rent paid.

Rural Service Centres

The Rural Service initiative continued to be a top priority throughout 1989-90.

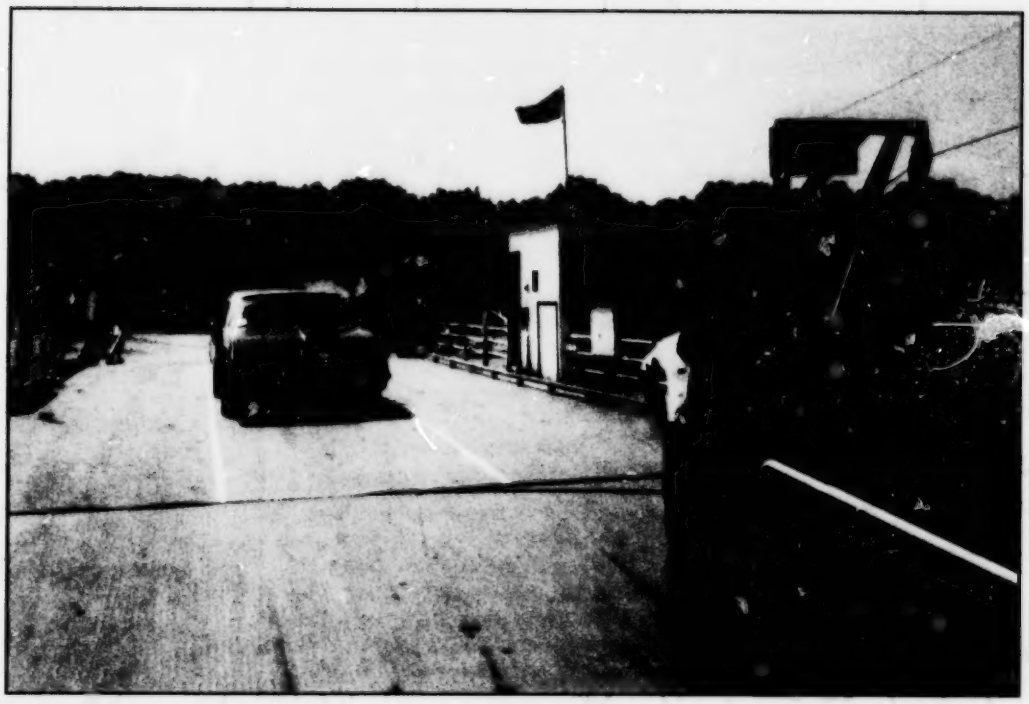
Sixteen Rural Service Centres were officially opened during the year in review. These centres became operational as the networking of services in rural Saskatchewan began to take hold.

Saskatchewan Rural Development, along with Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food, Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation, and the Agricultural Credit Corporation of Saskatchewan have largely driven the initiative to increase accessibility of government services, programs and information to rural residents.

Another agency to formally join the network of Rural Service Centres, through a Letter of Understanding, was Economic Development and Tourism. This agency has also seen the benefits of co-operation and networking in order to increase access of their resources, programming and information to the public through the Rural Service Centres.

These centres continue to provide top notch facilities for local residents and offer the most up-to-date available information.

Transportation Services Division



Bridge Services

During the past fiscal year, the Bridge Services Branch, located in Regina, administered a program under which technical and financial assistance was provided to rural municipalities for the construction and maintenance of municipal bridges within their jurisdiction.

Technical assistance consisted of carrying out inspections, engineering designs, determining load carrying capacities and providing recommendations on bridge problems.

Financial assistance was provided at rates varying from 20% to 80% for bridges from 6 m to 30 m in length. For bridges greater than 30 m in length, all construction and maintenance costs were borne by the department.

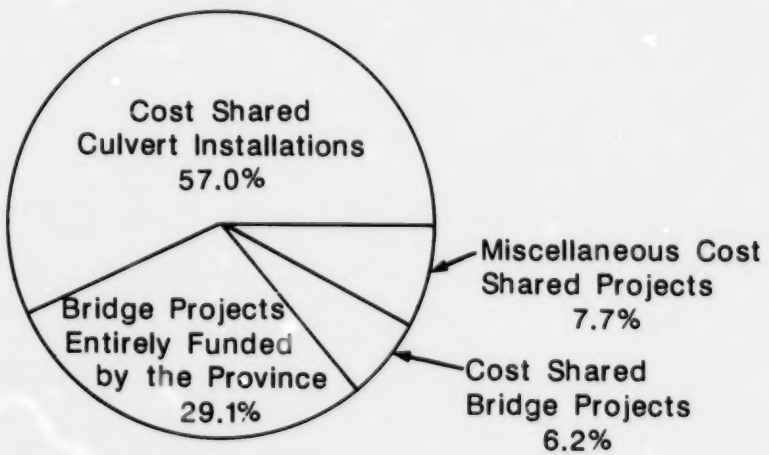
During the 1989-90 fiscal year, project expenditures totalled $1.7 million. Financial assistance was provided to 81 rural municipalities on 148 projects. As in the past, priority was given to bridge projects on designated roads, such as primary grid, grid and main farm access, because of the greater traffic volumes and to co-ordinate the bridge construction with the new road construction. However, approximately 33% of the total expenditures were made for projects on local municipal roads. Approximately 29% of the total expenditures were made on larger bridge projects with the department paying 100% of the costs for these projects.

Under the direction of the Bridge Services Branch, construction and repair for the majority of municipal bridges was carried out by the bridge construction crews of Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation. Culvert installations were carried out either with municipal equipment or by road construction contractors under the supervision of district staff.

Because of the present economic advantage, the use of corrugated steel culverts in lieu of bridges continued to be a popular choice, particularly in view of the availability of helical corrugated steel culverts.

During the 1989-90 fiscal year, 138 bridge inspections were carried out by the branch, with corresponding reports and recommendations being forwarded to the municipalities. In addition to the design of new drainage structures, work also included making construction and repair arrangements. Design and construction arrangements were also provided for one project undertaken by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

Bridge Program Expenditures 1989-90



Summary of Bridge Program (1989-90)

Construction — Large Bridges (100% Funded)

Rural Municipality	Location	Description
Souris Valley No. 7	On a main farm access road, south of Tribune, over Long Creek	3 spans, 36 m long, concrete and timber
Weyburn No. 67	On a primary grid road, south of Weyburn, over the Souris River	3 spans, 36 m long, concrete and timber
Auvergne No. 76	On a main farm access road, east of Ponteix, over Notukeu Creek	3 spans, 36 m long, concrete and timber
Pleasant Valley No. 288	On a main farm access road, west of Rosetown, over Eagle Creek	4 spans, 48 m long, concrete and timber
Livingston No. 331	On a grid road, north of Arran, over the Swan River	3 spans, 45 m long, concrete and steel
Bjorkdale No. 426	On a municipal road, southeast of Bjorkdale, over the Red Deer River	3 spans, 36 m long, concrete and timber

Total — 6 Large Bridges (over 30 m)

Construction — Standard Pile Bridges

Spans and Total Length	No. of Projects
1 span, 12 metres	2
1 span, 15 metres	1
Total — Standard Pile Bridges	3

Construction — Large Corrugated Steel Culverts

Culvert Diameter	No. of Projects
1600 mm	1
1800 mm	17
2000 mm	2
2200 mm	3
2400 mm	12
2700 mm	7
3000 mm	8
4300 mm	1
4610 mm	2
4920 mm	2
Total — Large Culverts	55

Bridge Maintenance Projects

Total Length	No. of Projects
6 metres	16
8 metres	1
12 metres	9
18 metres	9
24 metres	10
30 metres	1
36 metres	5
38 metres	1
43 metres	3
63 metres	1
Total — Repair Projects	56

Miscellaneous Bridge Projects

Description	No. of Projects
Low Level Crossings	7
Erosion Protection	5
Demolish Abandoned Bridges	1
Site Surveys	1
Channel Improvements	3
Ice Protection at Culverts	2
Culvert Extensions	1
Small Diameter Culverts	6
Clear Debris from Culverts	2
Total Miscellaneous Projects	28

Ferry Services

Thirteen cable ferries were in operation during the 1989-90 ferry season, nine on the South Saskatchewan River, three on the North Saskatchewan River, and one on the Saskatchewan River.

Ferry service commenced on the South Saskatchewan River at the Lancer and Estuary Ferry crossings on April 17 and on the North Saskatchewan River at the Cecil and Paynton Ferry crossings on April 24. Riverhurst Ferry operated across Lake Diefenbaker, and commenced service on April 27 and continued until December 14. The Cumberland House Ferry crossing, located on the Saskatchewan River, commenced service on April 26 and continued until November 14.

The private sector was contracted during the year to carry out all necessary construction and maintenance for ferry operations.

During the third year of a pilot project, the department provided a grant to partially fund the private operation of the ferry on the South Saskatchewan River, near Fenton.

The total cost of operations, maintenance and improvements ending March 31, 1990 was $1,168,200.

Periods of Ferry Services — 1989

Ferry	Service Commenced	Service Suspended	Days Not Operating
South Saskatchewan River:			
Estuary	April 17, 1989	November 13, 1989	0
Lemsford	April 20, 1989	November 12, 1989	0
Lancer	April 17, 1989	November 12, 1989	2
Riverhurst	April 27, 1989	December 14, 1989	0
Clarkboro*	April 24, 1989	November 12, 1989	1
Hague*	April 27, 1989	November 12, 1989	2
St. Laurent	April 24, 1989	November 10, 1989	2
Weldon	May 1, 1989	November 1, 1989	0
Fenton	May 2, 1989	November 1, 1989	2
North Saskatchewan River:			
Wingard*	April 25, 1989	November 6, 1989	6
Cecil*	April 24, 1989	November 1, 1989	1
Paynton*	April 24, 1989	November 10, 1989	6
Saskatchewan River:			
Cumberland House	April 26, 1989	November 14, 1989	0

**Interruption in service was due to low water levels, high water crests, and sand bars.*

Ferry Traffic 1989-90

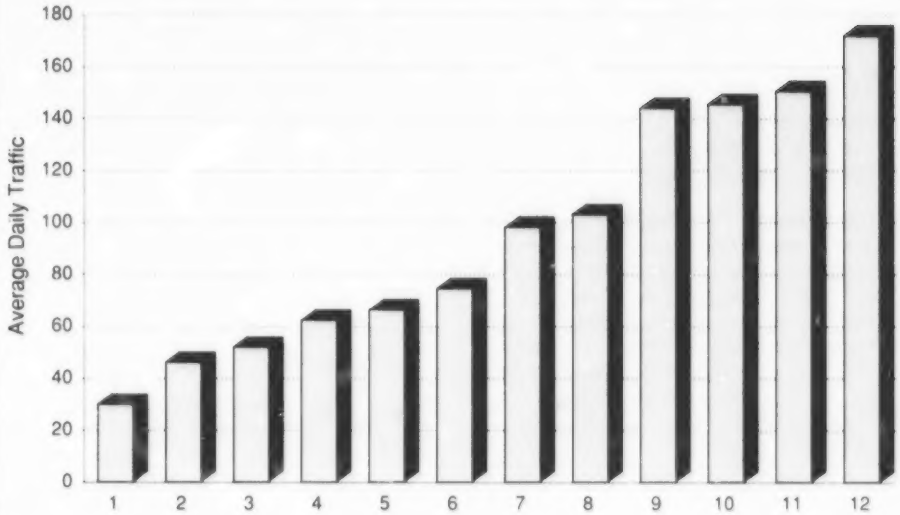
Ferry Name	Number of Cars	Number of 1/2Ton Trucks	Number of Trucks	Number of Buses	Number of Tractors	Number of Self-Propelled Machinery	Total Number of Vehicles
Hague	5,084	5,971	596	0	246	520	12,417
Clarkboro	16,392	16,054	1,102	19	212	105	33,884
St. Laurent	12,792	8,499	562	1,062	89	151	23,155
Wingard	3,907	4,749	557	56	160	175	9,604
Paynton	9,524	11,013	11,652	38	120	89	32,436
Riverhurst	20,200	17,127	4,078	38	91	41	41,575
Lancer	2,466	4,286	298	13	31	0	7,094
Cecil	4,424	8,050	1,496	5	424	106	14,505
Lemsford	7,189	9,227	852	51	91	179	17,589
Estuary	2,494	6,702	1,089	4	343	86	10,718
Weldon	12,616	14,671	2,263	14	1,034	104	30,702
Cumberland House	8,171	12,878	1,015	27	68	101	22,260
Fenton	1,707	2,058	234	0	115	33	4,147
Total	**106,966**	**121,285**	**25,794**	**1,327**	**3,024**	**1,690**	**260,086**

Ferries in Operation — Fiscal Year 1989-90

	Sec.	Twp.	Rge.	Mer.
South Saskatchewan River:				
Estuary	11	23	28	3
Lemsford	10	24	23	3
Lancer	28	23	21	3
Riverhurst	32	22	7	3
Clarkboro	1	39	4	3
Hague	31	41	2	3
St. Laurent	16	44	1	3
Weldon	33	48	22	2
Fenton	5	47	25	2
North Saskatchewan River:				
Paynton	2	47	20	3
Wingard	7	46	3	3
Cecil	22	49	24	2
Saskatchewan River:				
Cumberland House	Lat. 53°55′		Long. 102°16′	

Ferry Crossings

Average Daily Traffic (1990)



Average Daily Traffic for Ferry Crossings — 1990 Volumes

Rank	Name	A.D.T.
1	Lancer	30.1
2	Estuary	46.3
3	Wingard	52.1
4	Hague	62.6
5	Cecil	66.6
6	Lemsford	74.7
7	Cumberland House	98.4
8	St. Laurent	103.2
9	Paynton	144.1
10	Riverhurst	145.6
11	Weldon	150.7
12	Clarkboro	172.0

Road Services

Road Services consists of a Director and Assistant Director located in Regina, with six district offices located throughout the province. The Regina office supervises the six districts and provides advice and guidance on technical and administrative matters. The Regina office also establishes and interprets branch policies and standards.

Road Services provides technical and financial assistance to municipalities for the construction, oil surfacing and maintenance of designated roads according to program eligibility. Program delivery and engineering services are available through the six district offices located in North Battleford, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Yorkton, Weyburn and Swift Current. All district offices are located in Rural Service Centres.

The designated road programs administered by the branch include the following:

Grid Roads

This program, consisting of an all-weather road system of inter-connecting municipal roads, initially began in 1956 with 19,000 km and later expanded to 26,000 km. In 1987, the grid road system was redesignated through road rationalization and is currently comprised of approximately 12,800 km.

Primary Grid Roads

The Primary Grid Road Program began officially in 1977, and consists of 8,600 km of the most heavily travelled rural roads. Construction and reconstruction assistance is available for all primary grid roads. Approximately 3,000 km of these roads are also eligible for assistance for oil surfacing.

Main Farm Access Roads

This program consisting of 29,200 km began in 1967 as a secondary grid system to provide all-weather access roads to as many farm sites as possible. Currently, approximately 25,300 km have been constructed to standard.

Special Roads

Through the 1987 Road Rationalization Study, several roads programs were combined and designated under the Special Roads Program. These include the former Regional Park, Resort, Oil and Industrial Access, and Indian Reserve Access Road Programs. There are approximately 2,400 km of special roads eligible for construction and reconstruction. Approximately 370 km of these roads are also eligible for oil surfacing assistance.

Review and Payment of Accounts

Approximately 2,500 accounts for road construction, surfacing, surfacing maintenance and gravel completions on 5,418 km of designated roads in 287 rural municipalities and 38 urban municipalities were reviewed and approved for payment by branch staff. The total value of construction accounts paid in 1989 was $19,015,884.

Accounts for the regravelling of 25,435 km of designated roads in 294 rural municipalities and 12 urban municipalities were also reviewed and approved for payment by Road Services staff. Grants for regravelling totalled $3,594,605.

Construction and Reconstruction

During this season, 221 rural municipalities, 8 urban municipalities and 3 Indian reserves constructed or reconstructed a total of 1,435.8 equivalent kilometres of designated roads. This total is made up of 295.5 km of Primary Grid, 668.4 km of Main Farm Access, 393.3 km of Grid and 78.6 km of Special roads.

The excavation price of projects tendered in 1989 varied from a low of 66¢/m^3 in the Weyburn district to

a high of $1.35/m^3$; with a provincial average of 84¢/m^3. The average cost of construction on roads built to Main Farm Access standard was $17,400/km and the average cost of construction for Primary Grid roads was $22,200/km.

The average cost of construction contracts tendered in 1989 amounted to $77,400 per contract.

Heavy Haul and High Volume Road Program

Effective June 1985, the Heavy Haul and High Volume Road Program was introduced to service industries in rural municipalities. During the year 70.3 km were constructed and 14.9 km surfaced under this program. In 1989, municipalities in all six districts participated in the program.

Participation was high again in the North Battleford district where 7 rural municipalities graded 41.3 km under the Heavy Haul — High Volume Road Program.

In 1989, the average cost of grading under the Heavy Haul — High Volume Road Program was $35,000/km and the average cost of paving was $118,400.

Oil Surfacing

83.7 km of oil surfacing were completed under the Primary Grid and Special Roads Programs. 15 rural municipalities and 2 urban municipalities participated in the two programs.

The cost of all oil surfacing in 1989 averaged $31,300/km.

Indian Reserve Roads

This program involves designated roads on Indian reserves. Construction costs are shared between the federal and provincial governments.

Design and Engineering

The district engineering staff of the department carried out alignment surveys, drainage, special and related construction surveys in 234 rural municipalities, 10 urban municipalities and 5 Indian reserves. Complete road designs and construction engineering were provided on 10.8 km in 14 rural municipalities.

A total of 1,301.5 km of road designs were submitted by consulting engineers to district offices for checking and approval by our staff.

Surfacing designs for 71.4 km were also reviewed and approved, including 18.1 km of pavement under the Heavy Haul — High Volume Road Program.

Department staff also provided contract and construction engineering services to four rural municipalities and one urban municipality for seal coating of 21.7 km of surfaced roads.

Preliminary inspection and design, construction supervision and calculation of final quantities for large diameter culvert installations were provided by Road Services district staff for 60 sites in 44 rural municipalities. In addition, supervision for construction of two low level crossings was also provided.

Inspection Services

Construction inspections, final inspections and approvals were carried out by Road Services district staff for approximately 1,435 km of construction and reconstruction and 85 km of surfacing in 221 rural municipalities, 8 urban municipalities and 3 Indian reserves.

Oil surface maintenance inspections and recommendations were provided for approximately 1,365 km of surfaced roads in 112 rural municipalities and 60 urban municipalities.

Under the designated road maintenance program, maintenance and signing inspections were carried out on 48,325 km in 299 rural

municipalities, 267 urban municipalities and 46 Indian reserves. Maintenance reports and signing maps were prepared to assist each municipality.

Regravel Program

In 1986, the department introduced a program to assist municipalities with the cost of regravelling designated road systems. The department pays 50% of the cost to apply up to 100 yd^3 of gravel per mile on all constructed designated roads.

In 1989, 289 rural municipalities and 17 urban municipalities participated, regravelling 24,960 km of designated roads at a total cost of $7,189,210.

Oil Surface Maintenance

In 1989, 112 rural municipalities and 60 urban municipalities were eligible to receive oil surfacing maintenance assistance on roads surfaced under the Primary Grid or Special Roads Programs. 50% assistance was paid to 70 rural municipalities and 19 urban municipalities for a total expenditure of $1,408,821 for oil surfacing maintenance.

Regular Maintenance

In 1989, 797.5 km of road was eligible to receive maintenance assistance of $180/km. 2,702.4 km were eligible to receive $130/km and 19,415.9 km were eligible to receive $90/km for maintenance on constructed roads in the Grid, Primary Grid, and Special Road Programs. In addition, 24,733.7 km of Main Farm Access road were eligible to receive $60/km for maintenance assistance. The department paid a total of $3,725,571 in road maintenance grants to municipalities.

All 299 rural municipalities were eligible for assistance under the above maintenance programs. As well, 267 cities, towns and villages were eligible for maintenance assistance on 252 km under the same road programs.

Roads on Indian Reserves

The department assisted on the construction of 5.5 km of Primary Grid, 18.3 km of Grid and 0.6 km of Main Farm Access road construction on 6 Indian reserves in 1989.

In 1989, 52 Indian reserves were eligible to receive regular maintenance assistance on 398.2 km of Primary Grid, Grid and Special Roads.

Economic Benefits

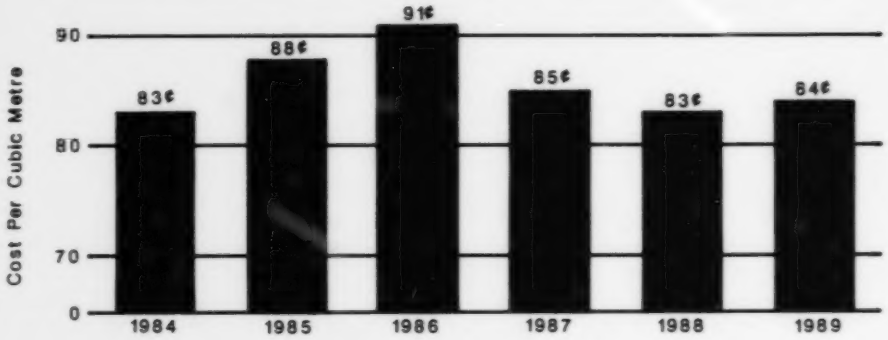
The Conditional Revenue Sharing programs administered by the Road Services Branch provide significant economic benefits to rural Saskatchewan.

In 1989, $19 million was paid to rural municipalities for construction and surfacing of designated roads. These grants were the provincial government's share of construction expenditures totalling $28.0 million by rural municipalities.

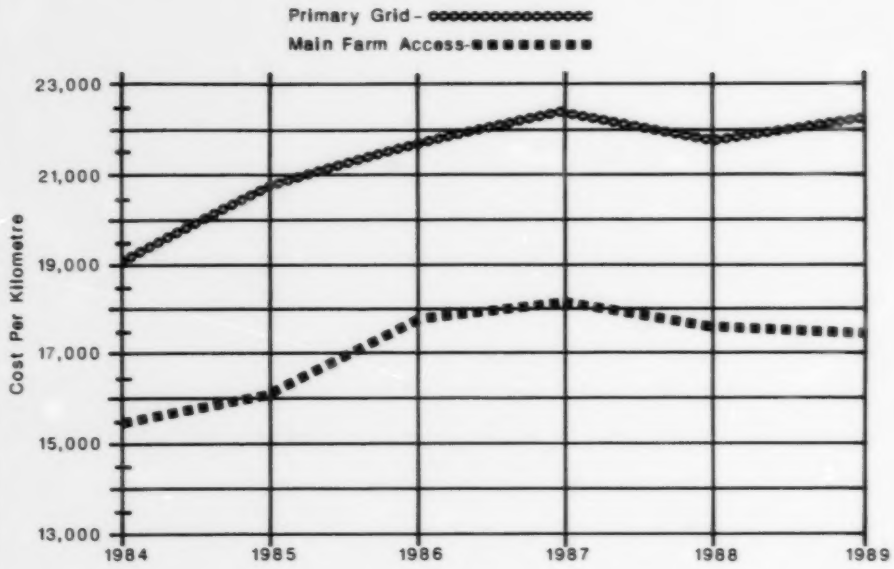
An additional $8.2 million was paid to rural municipalities as the provincial share of various road maintenance programs. Total expenditures by rural municipalities for maintenance of designated roads was approximately $23.8 million.

The conditional road construction and maintenance programs support in excess of 3,000 jobs in rural Saskatchewan. These include jobs in road construction, surfacing and maintenance, graveling, engineering, legal surveying and equipment sales and maintenance. Approximately ⅔ of these jobs are in the private sector and the balance are primarily rural municipal employees. The vast majority of these jobs employ people from rural communities.

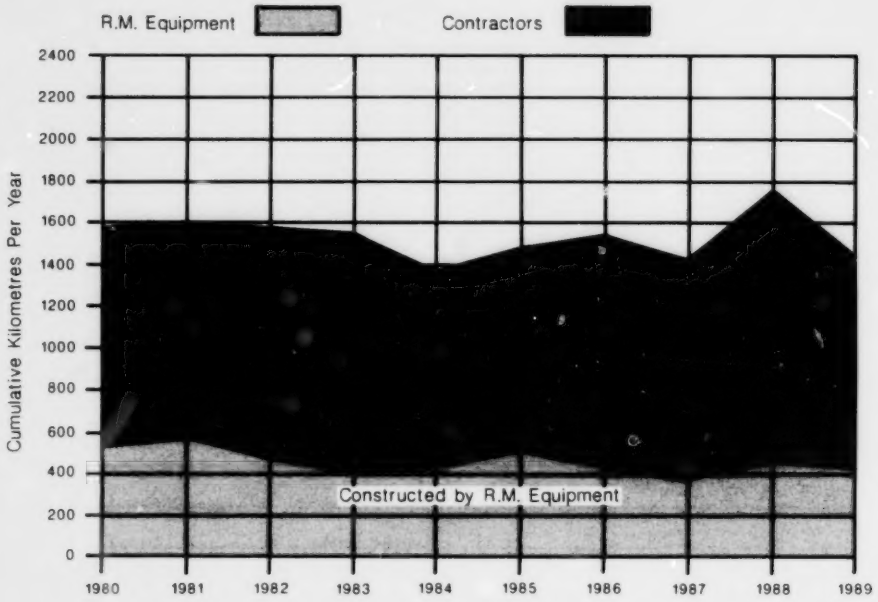
Average Cost of Excavation
(Tendered Contracts)



Average Annual Construction Costs

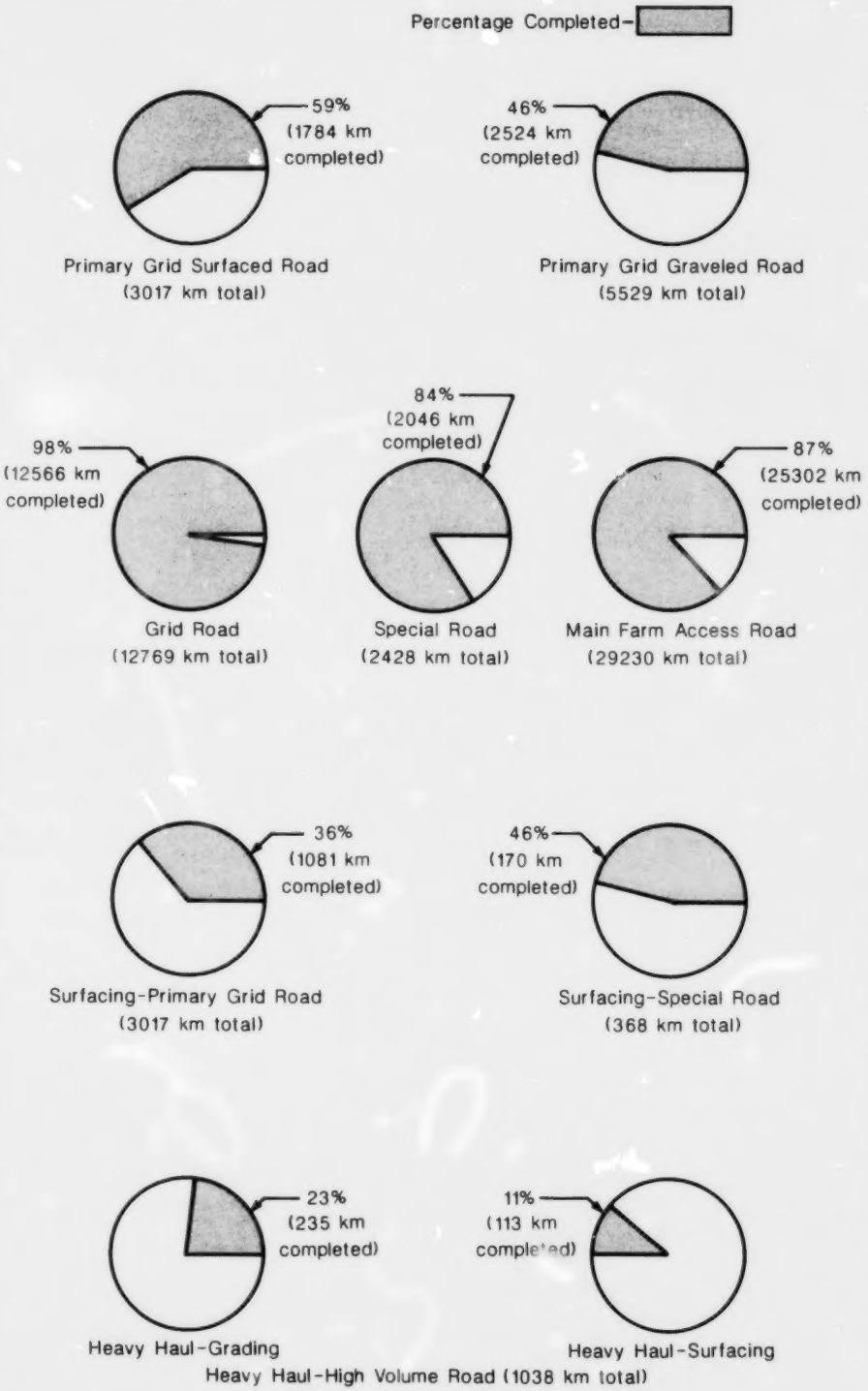


Annual Construction — All Programs



Completion Status of Designated Road Programs

(year ending March 31, 1990)



Summary of Road Statistics

Programs	Equiv. in System Constructed to March 31, 1990 # R.M.s	Equiv. Kms.	Equivalent Constructed in 1989-90 # R.M.s	Equiv. Kms.	Estimated Kms. Remaining to Construct to March 31, 1990
Construction					
Primary Grid Surfaced	135	1,827.0	44	92.1	1,264.7
Primary Grid Gravel	169	2,536.8	89	233.9	3,023.3
Special	135	2,063.4	39	45.7	390.3
Grid	289	12,627.1	128	20.1	210.7
Main Farm Access	298	25,376.9	195	598.6	3,946.5
Subtotal		**44,431.2**		**990.4**	**8,835.5**
Primary Grid Surfaced/ Indian Reserve	3	27.5	2	5.5	20.1
Primary Grid Gravel/ Indian Reserve	2	17.7	0	0.0	35.7
Special/Indian Reserve	1	1.1	0	0.0	3.2
Grid/Indian Reserve	32	296.5	0	0.0	28.1
Main Farm Access/ Indian Reserve	25	130.7	1	0.6	178.3
Subtotal		**473.5**		**6.1**	**265.4**
Total		**44,904.7**		**996.5**	**9,100.9**
Reconstruction					
All Programs		2,948.5	482.0	N/A	
Oil Surfacing					
Primary Grid Surfaced	69	1,125.7	11	70.5	1,966.0
Primary Grid Gravel	5	17.2	0	0.0	N/A
Special	50	183.7	5	8.4	195.0
Grid	12	70.6	0	0.0	N/A
Main Farm Access	4	79.4	0	0.0	N/A
Total		**1,476.6**		**78.9**	**2,161.0**
Heavy Haul — High Volume					
Construction	39	234.5	28	57.1	818.2
Surfacing	17	112	6	14.9	940.0

Rural Development 1989 Grant Structure for Designated Roads

Type of Road	Construction and Reconstruction	Oil Surfacing Assistance	Maintenance Assistance	Regravel Assistance
Primary Grid Surfaced	Varies from 70% to 90%. Basic road percentage rate for individual municipality, plus 30% for construction to full Primary Grid standards. Basic road percentage rate for individual municipality for construction to partial Primary Grid standards.	Same as under **Construction & Reconstruction.**	Same as under **Primary Grid Gravel.** 50% assistance for oil surface maintenance. Accounts required.	Same as under **Primary Grid Gravel.**
Primary Grid Gravel	Varies from 65% to 85%. Basic road percentage rate for individual municipality, plus 25% for construction to full Primary Grid standards. Basic road percentage rate for individual municipality for construction to partial Primary Grid standards. Basic road percentage rate is based on equalization grant formula. Varies from 40% to 60%.	N/A	For subgrade & right-of-way maintenance: — Maximum of $90/km where traffic volume is 150 v.p.d. or less. — Maximum of $130/km where traffic volume exceeds 150 v.p.d. to a maximum of 250 v.p.d. — Maximum of $180/km where traffic volume exceeds 250 v.p.d. Maintenance grants paid on the basis of field reports. Accounts not required.	50% of costs for maximum application rate of $48m^3/km$. Accounts required.
Grid	Varies from 55% to 75%. Basic road percentage rate for individual municipality, plus 15%.	N/A	For subgrade & right-of-way maintenance, like **Primary Grid Gravel**.	Same as under **Primary Grid Gravel.**
Main Farm Access	Varies from 40% to 60%. Basic road percentage rate for individual municipality.	N/A	Maximum of $60/km. Maintenance grants paid on the basis of field reports. Accounts not required.	Same as under **Primary Grid Gravel.**
Special — **Resort** — **Regional Park** — **Industrial Oil Access** — **Indian Reserve Access**	Varies from 65% to 85%. Basic road percentage rate for individual municipality, plus 25%.	Same as under **Construction and Reconstruction** where traffic volume exceeds 150 v.p.d.	For subgrade & right-of-way maintenance, same as **Primary Grid Gravel**. 50% assistance for oil surface maintenance.	Same as under **Primary Grid Gravel**.
Heavy Haul — High Volume	Basic road percentage rate for individual municipality, plus 30% on incremental costs. Grant earned does not form part of construction allocation for designated roads.	Same as under **Construction and Reconstruction.**	For subgrade & right-of-way maintenance, these roads are eligible under the appropriate road designation. 50% assistance for oil surface maintenance.	Eligible under the appropriate road designation.

Rural Development 1989 Grant Structure for Designated Roads

Type of Road	Construction and Reconstruction	Oil Surfacing Assistance	Maintenance Assistance	Regravel Assistance
Bridges	a. Bridges over 30.5m in length: 100%. b. Bridges 6m to 24.4m in length: Basic bridge percentage rate from 20% to 80%, determined from formula based on number of bridge units and assessment. eg. 20% = assessment of $815,000/unit or greater. For bridges on designated roads, assistance at the higher of the basic bridge percentage rate or appropriate assistance rate applicable to designated road on which bridge is located. c. Bridges 24.5m to 30.5m are eligible for extra construction assistance. d. Grant earned does not form part of construction allocation for designated roads.	N/A	a. Bridges over 30.5m in length: 100%. b. Bridges 6m-24.4m in length: R.M. pays first $200. Assistance on balance of costs at basic bridge percentage rate. For bridges on designated roads, assistance at the higher of the basic bridge percentage rate or appropriate assistance rate applicable to designated road on which bridge is located. c. Bridges 24.5m to 30.5m are eligible for extra maintenance assistance.	N/A
Towns and Villages	70% assistance for designated roads, approved bridge projects, and for incremental costs on Heavy Haul-High Volume roads.	Same as under **Construction and Reconstruction** for Primary Grid Surfaced and those Special roads where traffic volume exceeds 150 v.p.d. Recommended towns & villages cooperate with R.M. for oil surface maintenance.	Same as under **Primary Grid Gravel.** Main Farm Access roads receive the same assistance as in rural municipalities. 50% assistance for oil surface maintenance.	Same as under **Primary Grid Gravel**.
Roads on Indian Reserves	Rural Development pays 100% of first construction and gravel. Province reimbursed 80%. Applies to Main Farm Access, Primary Grid Surfaced, Primary Grid Gravel, Grid and Special roads.	Same as under **Construction and Reconstruction** for Primary Grid Surfaced and those Special roads where traffic volume exceeds 150 v.p.d.	Maximum of $60/km divided between Surfaced maintenance & right-of-way maintenance. Maximum of $70/km on designated locations where traffic volume exceeds 150 v.p.d. Maintenance grants paid on the basis of field reports. Accounts not required.	Same as under **Construction and Reconstruction**. Maximum of $140m^3/km$.

Transportation Planning

During the year under review, the Transportation Planning Branch was responsible for designating and co-ordinating road system planning for rural municipalities, conducting research into transportation issues, distribution of unconditional revenue sharing funds and provided research, technical and financial assistance to rural municipalities to reduce the social and economic loss due to municipal traffic accidents.

Road Planning

A computerized transportation data base for road approvals and statistics was implemented during 1989-90. The automated data base provided timely information on 52,974 kilometres of designated road in 299 rural municipalities, 293 kilometres in 285 urban centres and 739 kilometres on 61 Indian reserves.

The Heavy Haul and High Volume Road Program initiated in June 1985, provides incremental funding to rural municipalities to upgrade roads which carry heavy truck or high volume traffic. During the past year, applications for 3,270 kilometres were approved for assistance to the end of the 1989/90 fiscal year.

To facilitate road planning, traffic studies were carried out on 3,000 kilometres of road by our staff. Vehicle classification studies were carried out at numerous locations to determine the level of truck traffic on the roads under study. A long term traffic count was conducted at four grid road locations throughout the province to measure seasonal traffic variations on the rural road system.

Under branch supervision, consulting engineers conducted inventory in 82 rural municipalities to update road inventory and planning maps. The rural road inventory provided an essential information base on existing roads and standards, farm homes, industries, resort developments, etc. that was required in planning and assessing the roadway needs in each rural municipality. In addition, the road class information was one of the input factors in the calculation of the unconditional revenue sharing grant.

Under branch supervision, consulting engineers conducted traffic studies in 60 rural municipalities. The traffic data formed the basis for designating roadways eligible for provincial assistance, and road design standards. Eligible maintenance grants to rural municipalities were also based on traffic volumes. The traffic data was in constant demand by various government agencies and rural municipalities which rely on the data to establish their construction and maintenance priorities.

The branch was responsible for setting up Timber Haul Road Maintenance agreements for 186 kilometres in six rural municipalities whereby the Department of Rural Development pays 100% of the maintenance cost on the designated haul routes up to a maximum of $3.73/cord/km. The maintenance agreements compensate rural municipalities for overweight hauling of timber.

Research

During the past fiscal year, Transportation Planning updated the road maintenance policy review document and recommended several options for an enhanced maintenance program.

Research was conducted concerning the impact on both the conditional and unconditional grant resulting from changing the proportion of revenue sharing fund available for distribution under these grants.

Branch officials participated in a interdepartmental study reviewing the method of payment of the Crow Benefit.

A computer analysis program for the unconditional grant was developed in

conjunction with a consultant during the past year.

The branch was also responsible for updating an interdepartmental study that reviewed the policy regarding roads to resort areas and recommended additional options.

Traffic Safety

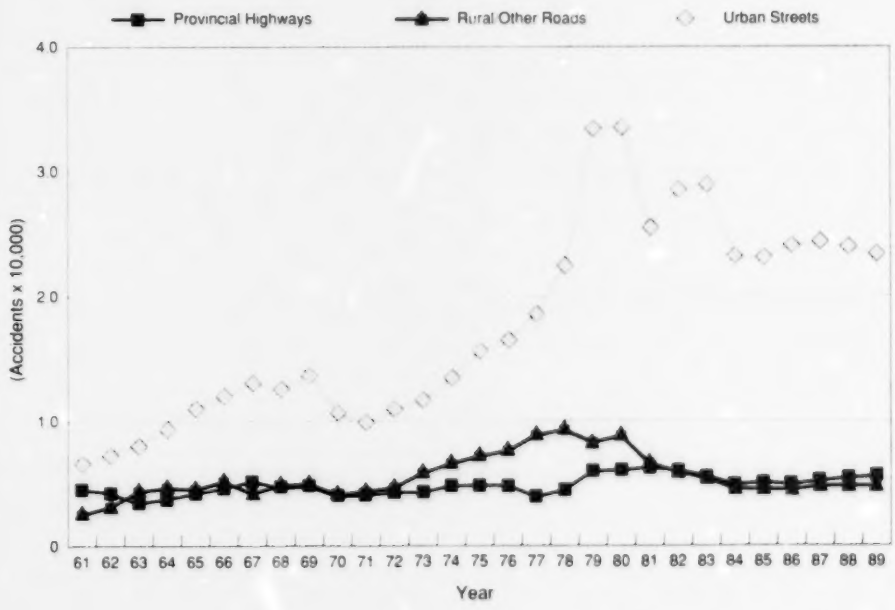
An expanded Traffic Safety Program implemented in 1982 has been well received by the municipalities. This program provides assistance to rural municipalities for traffic safety countermeasures which include signing, clearing of sight triangles, centreline striping and intersection improvements. Since 1982, almost all rural municipalities have participated in the program.

Through the "Traffic Accident Information System" this branch, in conjunction with the district office staff, was able to monitor and analyze municipal road traffic accidents to identify and correct roadway deficiencies. Several locations were reviewed in detail and corrective action was proposed.

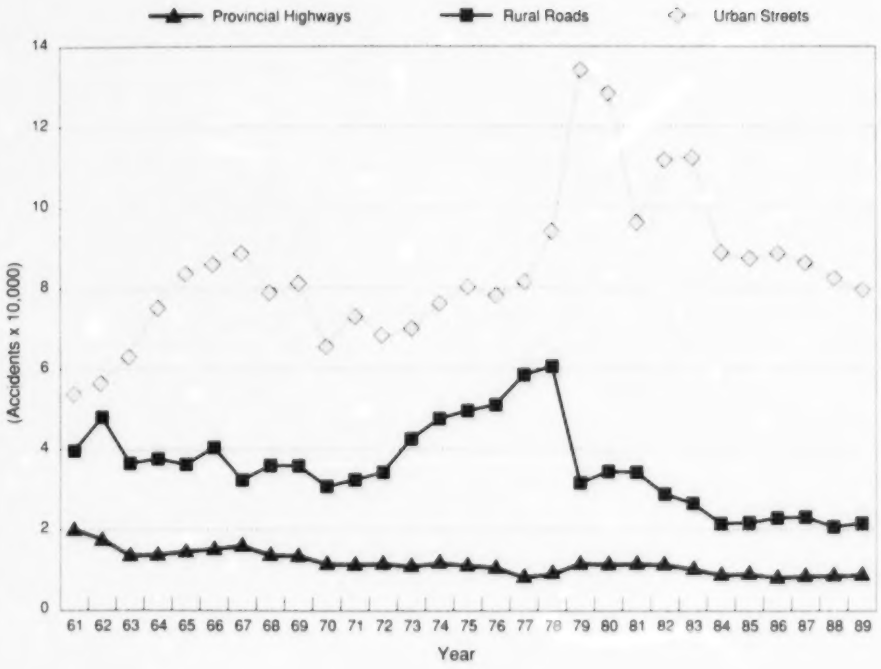
Year end accident information was forwarded to rural municipalities. This information, enables rural municipalities to take corrective action and contribute to reducing the municipal accident rate and the economic loss. The economic loss due to property damage accidents was $11.7 million in 1989.

Fatalities increased, whereas injuries decreased from the previous year. Total accidents on municipal roads were down over 1988. Since 1982, there has been a trend to fewer accidents on the municipal road system. These reductions can be partly attributed to the Traffic Safety Program.

Trends in All Reported Accidents



Trends in Accident Rates
By Road System



Signing

The branch is responsible for developing and monitoring sign standards and specifications to ensure that municipal signing conforms to the Canadian standards. New signs, signing techniques and materials were evaluated and adopted for use on the municipal road system.

The branch participated on the Council on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Canada and the Technical and Research Committee. Membership includes various road agencies from across Canada with the objective of standardizing signing, signals and pavement markings.

A review of all signing for ferry crossings was conducted, and subsequently a plan was developed to improve signing at all crossings.

Revenue Sharing

The branch was responsible for reviewing and updating the input into the equalization grant formula to ensure an equitable distribution of funds.

The branch determined the distribution of $16,484,330 unconditional revenue sharing funds to 299 rural municipalities for the 1989-90 fiscal year.

The branch also determined the base construction assistance rate for each rural municipality. This rate forms the basis of provincial assistance for all our road programs.

The branch was responsible for the distribution of organized hamlet grants. For the 1989-90 fiscal year $811,517 was allocated to 157 hamlets.

The grant consists of a base amount and a per capita grant to assist small communities in providing services.

Railway Crossing Signalization

During 1989-90, Automatic Protection was installed at two municipal road-railway crossing locations by the railway company. To date there are forty-six municipal road railway crossings that have automatic protection.The branch co-ordinates the inspections to determine the need for automatic protection.

The installation of automatic signals was cost shared as follows:

— 80% federal government (National Transportation Agency)

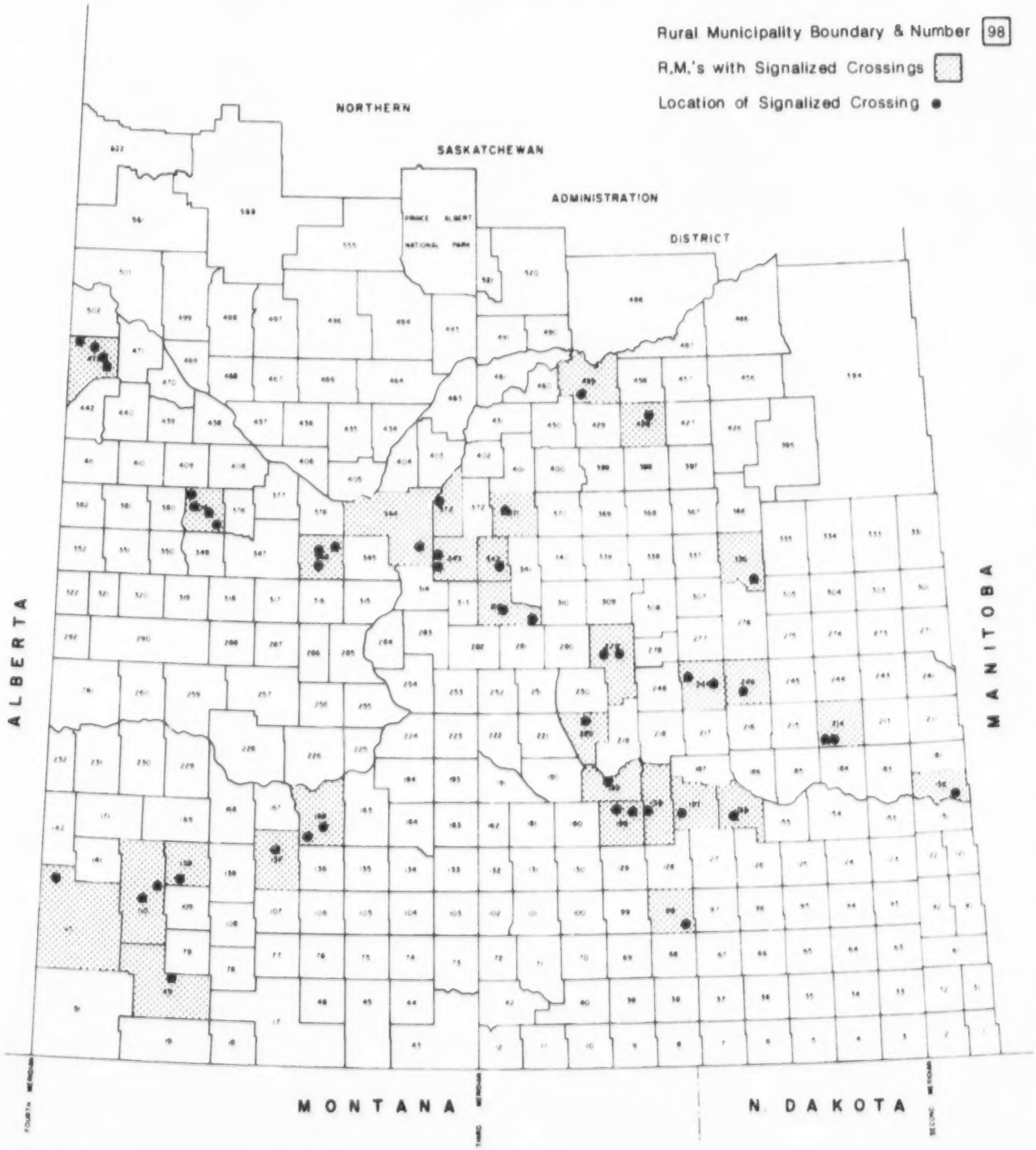
— 12.5% rural municipality

— 7.5% railway company

Rural Development provides assistance on the municipality's share. Maintenance costs for automatic signals were shared 50/50 between the railway company and the municipality. Rural Development also provides assistance on the municipality's share.

Saskatchewan Rural Municipalities

Signalized Railway Crossings on the Municipal Road System



Rural Municipal Roads — 1989
Severity of Accidents by Month

Month	Number of Cases Property Damage	Number of Cases Personal Injury	Fatal	Total	Number of Victims Injured	Number of Victims Killed	Single Vehicle Accidents	Motor-cycle Accidents	Bicycle Accidents	Pedestrian Accidents	Estimated Damage
Unknown	1	1	0	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	2,000
January	210	41	3	254	61	3	211	0	0	1	760,549
February	198	28	1	227	37	1	198	0	0	0	576,880
March	171	38	2	211	50	2	183	0	0	1	596,703
April	148	57	5	210	86	5	184	1	0	1	648,810
May	240	73	6	319	112	6	286	1	0	0	965,349
June	323	82	3	408	146	3	359	4	0	0	1,220,001
July	367	138	4	509	236	5	443	6	0	0	1,503,941
August	300	90	5	395	140	5	358	7	0	0	1,224,150
September	307	94	9	410	160	9	362	0	1	0	1,185,538
October	374	83	6	463	119	6	429	1	0	0	1,375,524
November	355	47	2	404	60	2	358	0	0	0	925,675
December	277	39	2	318	54	2	292	0	0	0	760,404
Total	**3,271**	**811**	**48**	**4,130**	**1,262**	**49**	**3,665**	**20**	**1**	**3**	**$11,745,524**

FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY - NOT AN INVOICE

Management Services Division

Administrative Services

Administrative Services provides central support services to all branches of the department in areas of accounting, purchasing, budgeting, personnel, training, mail, space allocation and government vehicle control.

Permanent Establishment (March 31, 1990)

	Regina	Regional	Total
Executive and General Administration	16	—	16
Municipal Finance and Advisory Services	7	1	8
Transportation Planning	3	—	3
Road Services	4	34	38
Bridge Services	6	—	6
Drafting Services	4	—	4
Community Planning and Development	10	11	21
Extension Service	9	80	89
Lands Branch	47	42	89
Rural Service	7	79	86
Total	**113**	**247**	**360**

Expenditures

Program Services:	**1989-90**		**1988-89**	
Administration	1,121,805		965,567	
Ferry Services	1,184,147		1,184,147	
Transportation Planning	236,034		246,341	
Municipal Finance and Advisory Services	397,500		349,072	
Community Planning	766,393		663,531	
Road Services	1,895,251		1,830,075	
Bridge Services	273,456		210,349	
Drafting Services	171,100		176,420	
Rural Community Development	661,166		456,732	
Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation	2,785,759		1,601,457	
Members of the Executive Council	40,825		44,805	
Grants to Community Economic Development	—		187,800	
Extension Service	5,011,041		4,763,507*	
Lands Branch	8,674,458		5,795,920*	
Rural Service Centres	4,629,369		959,931*	
Total	27,848,304	36%	19,435,654	28%
Grants:				
Rural Revenue Sharing	46,919,096		47,783,369	
Indian Reserve Roads	14,954		11,581	
Other Rural Organizations	27,950		17,050	
Assist. General Agricultural Purposes	443,290		699,939	
4-H Program	271,000		227,292	
In Lieu of Taxes — Crown Land	958,970		868,311	
Sub Total	48,635,260	64%	49,607,542	72%
Department Total	76,483,564	100%	69,043,196	100%

Capital Expenditure	1989-90	1988-89
Community Economic Development Committees	55	55
Rural Development Corps.	20	—
Municipal Economic Development Capital Program	204,065	—
Community Pasture Development	498,559	461,954
Heritage Fund		
Grants — Lessees Share of Lease	632,375	499,863
Crown Agricultural Land for Resale	187,732	309,621

*effective August 1, 1988

Communication Services

During the year under review this unit communicated programs, policies, and accomplishments consistent with the department's mandate.

Other 1989/90 Communication Services activities included:

- Published "Rural Development's" — a quarterly newsletter, sent to 73,000 rural residents.
- Scene & Heard — staff newsletter.
- Prepared news releases and co-ordinated special projects.
- Handled all inquiries regarding departmental programs, projects, and specifically community profiles, grid road maps, and print material.
- Co-ordinated display booth used by staff in Rural Service Centres.
- Assisted in production, co-ordination, and procurement of print material.
- Prepared monthly rural update, and submissions for *The Rural Councillor*.
- Provided media clipping service for departmental staff.
- Preparation of speech modules.

Drafting Services

During the year under review, Drafting Services provided drafting, graphics and technical support services to all branches and districts of Rural Development. The branch also provided an extensive map library distribution centre with sales to public and private sector.

Other 1989/90 Drafting Services activity included:

- Updated 299 designated road projects indicating 997.0 km of new construction, and another 500 km of reconstruction.
- Revisions of 82 rural inventory maps showing current information regarding road standards, farm residences, urban centres, lakes, rivers and railways in each rural municipality.
- Compiled one new zoning and planning map indicating land use criteria. Amendments were made to existing maps for three rural municipalities.
- Compiled plans for four new organized hamlets.
- Prepared 10 railway abandonment plans for various locations, throughout the province.

Systems Services

Systems Services manage the delivery of computer technology and support services to the department. This includes services in the areas of technology planning, hardware and software acquisition, user training and support, contract management, and hardware maintenance agreements.

During 1989-90 branch activity included:

— Acquisition and installation of 163 computers.

— Installation of two Local Area Networks in head office connecting 20 work stations and two laser printers.

— Expansion of multi-user minicomputer system through the addition of 10 terminals and one laser printer.

— Management of consultant contracts for the development of a departmental Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Strategic Plan and further development of the department's corporate database.

— Co-ordination of staff training in WordPerfect and WordPerfect Office.

Municipal Finance and Advisory Services

During the past fiscal year Municipal Finance and Advisory Services provided consultative and review services to elected and appointed rural municipal officials in all aspects of municipal law, administration and accounting.

Services were provided by mail, telephone and during periodic visits to municipal offices, during which time municipal records were inspected. Specific problems and alleged improper conduct of municipal operations were investigated. A report on each visit was subsequently prepared for submission to the Minister of Rural Development and to the reeve of the rural municipality. The report indicated any deficiencies and recommended remedial procedures to improve municipal administration.

During the year, detailed reviews of the records maintained by 33 municipal administrators applying for a Class "A" or Superior "A" Certificates of Qualification were conducted for the Board of Examiners. Members of the branch also conducted 71 routine reviews of municipal records and made 99 advisory calls at municipal offices. Twenty-three special interviews were conducted with municipal officials and 29 council meetings were attended. Staff members expended 45 days attending conventions of the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities and the Rural Municipal Administrators Association and 20 days instructing at seminars provided by Municipal Finance and Advisory Services. Municipal bylaws and tax cancellations submitted for Ministerial approval were processed and fidelity bonds for all rural municipal treasurers were monitored.

When rural municipalities were unable to obtain the services of qualified administrators, the branch reviewed each application and made recommendations concerning the issue of permits. No permits were issued to unqualified persons during the past fiscal year.

Annual financial statements and reports, submitted by municipal auditors for all 299 rural municipalities were monitored to evaluate financial strength, identify statutory and administrative deficiencies and determine where assistance was required to ensure adequate financing of municipal programs. Information obtained from these sources was compiled for a report to Statistics Canada.

The following statistical schedules have been prepared from the information contained in the financial statements of rural municipalities.

Consolidated Balance Sheet (In Dollars) Rural Municipalities of Saskatchewan

Assets	**1983**	**1987**	**1988**
Cash	41,112,642	57,467,040	63,084,144
Receivable	36,500,587	61,491,831	69,511,984
Investments	481,729	5,344,367	7,014,439
Loans and Advances	11,848,621	566,645	291,020
Tangible Assets	133,849,030	179,811,894	191,346,303
Other Assets	4,354,782	6,893,687	7,567,037
Fund Deficit	101,356	4,248	18,414
Total	**228,248,747**	**311,579,712**	**338,833,341**

Liabilities and Surplus	**1983**	**1987**	**1988**
Short Term Borrowings	5,851,100	4,392,692	4,224,792
Payables	7,555,873	7,227,852	7,319,193
Other Liabilities	7,648,842	19,204,759	21,236,594
Long Term Debt	15,184,985	4,309,757	3,831,135
Assets Valuation Allowances	2,630,496	3,088,192	3,366,520
Reserves	8,582,958	21,378,428	26,175,045
Equity	180,794,493	251,978,032	272,680,061
Total	**228,248,747**	**311,579,712**	**338,833,340**

Assets and Liabilities

The liquid financial position, which indicates the ability to meet current financial obligations of the revenue fund, was strengthened during the year. 264 rural municipalities had an operating surplus for the year and the operating of 35 rural municipalities resulted in a deficit. Reserves and surpluses continue to be maintained at an adequate level.

Saskatchewan Rural Development appreciates the continued co-operation and assistance received from local authorities, including the appointed municipal administrators, in dealing with municipal problems and supplying information for this segment of the annual report.

Financial Statistics (In Dollars)
Rural Municipalities of Saskatchewan

Statement of Revenue

	1983	1987	1988
Taxes	84,508,415	98,251,706	100,227,357
Grants-In-Lieu of Taxes	1,525,489	2,042,244	1,698,426
Services to Other Governments	73,386	123,007	1,310,726
Sales of Service	2,422,592	2,786,011	3,083,996
Other Revenues from Own Sources	6,070,462	7,993,379	9,590,529
Unconditional Grants	15,985,296	17,383,608	17,361,927
Conditional Grants	26,168,562	35,195,365	36,719,122
Other Transactions	4,824,885	4,920,368	5,323,027
Total	**141,579,087**	**168,695,688**	**175,315,110**

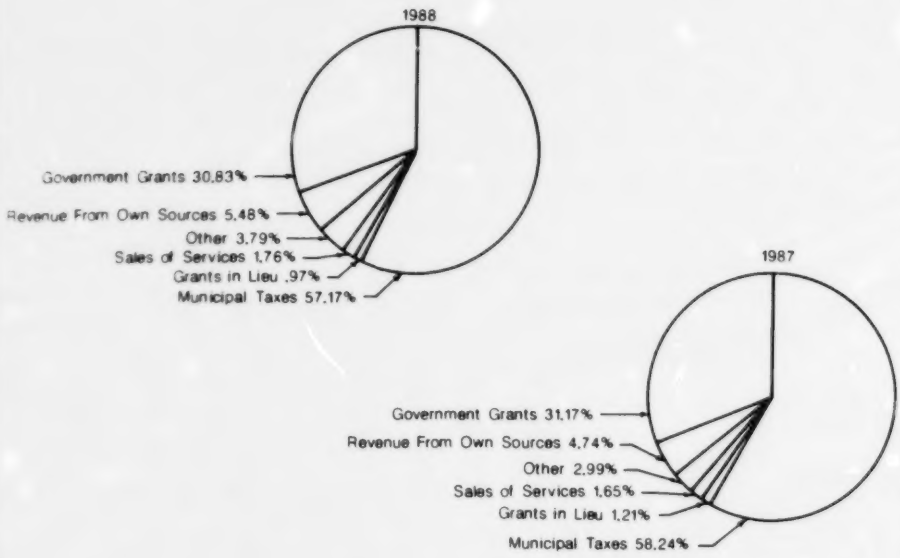
Statement of Expenditures

	1983	1987	1988
General Government Services	16,423,557	20,142,593	20,721,449
Protective Services	2,094,490	2,418,761	2,514,438
Transportation Services	92,209,960	106,151,245	105,219,000
Environmental Health Services	613,811	1,093,958	1,449,634
Health and Welfare Services	597,474	723,954	1,055,809
Environmental Development Services	1,389,453	1,441,701	1,402,044
Recreational and Cultural Services	2,311,307	2,752,062	3,143,805
Fiscal Services	22,193,441	27,753,171	30,175,308
Total	**137,833,493**	**162,477,445**	**165,681,487**
Net Surplus for the Year	**3,745,594**	**6,218,243**	**9,633,623**

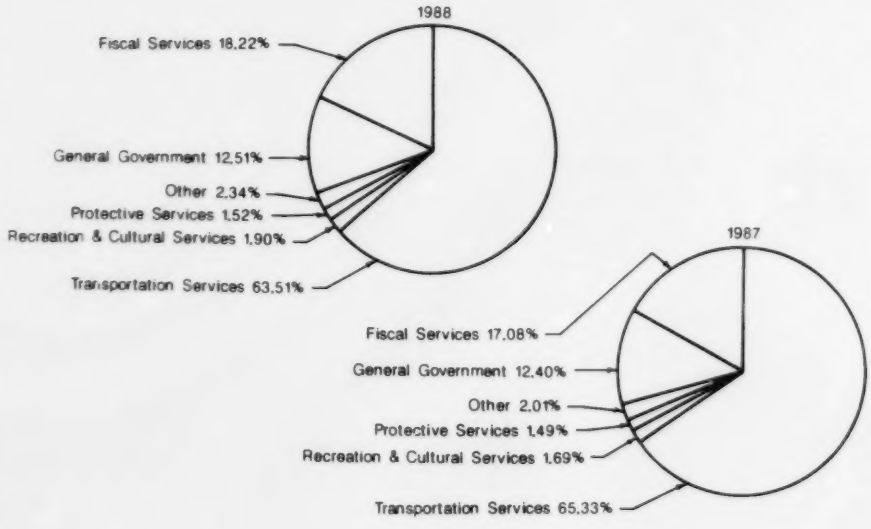
Revenues and Expenditures

General revenues and expenditures increased in 1988. The total combined revenues of all rural municipalities for the year 1988 exceeded the combined expenditures by $9,633,623. Surplus on 1988 operations amounted to $9,633,623.

Revenues for Rural Municipalities



Expenditures for Rural Municipalities



Municipal Grants

Rural Revenue Sharing

Under the province's revenue sharing program, Saskatchewan Rural Development distributes annual grants to R.M.s. In 1989-90 rural municipalities sharing $47 million for specific projects and locally determined programs.

Unconditional Grants

Grants totalling $17,295,847 were paid to rural municipalities on an unconditional basis according to the established formula.

Conditional Grants

Conditional grants for rural municipalities were paid out during the year under review for the following purposes.

Special Roads	$ 1,352,568
Primary Grid	5,728,705
Main Farm Access Roads	7,148,264
Bridges	1,694,456
Maintenance	4,429,982
Traffic Safety	81,106
Traffic Counts	144,360
Timber Haul Maintenance	79,336
Fire	212,459
Recreation	191,032
Legal Surveys	9,806
Regravel	3,594,605
Grid	2,957,930
Heavy Haul	1,839,848
Road Inventories	50,840
Signs	108,402
Totals	**$29,623,699**

Inter-Municipal Programs

Municipalities which agree to offer common creation and fire protection services to their residents are eligible for inter-municipal revenue sharing grants.

Two or more neighboring municipalities may qualify through a formal agreement, and in some cases an association is necessary to administer the services. It is up to an individual municipality to initiate the agreement and to work out the terms and conditions.

Heavy Haul and High Volume Road Program

This program provides grants to rural municipalities for upgrading their major industrial and heavy traffic routes to a higher standard capable of accommodating heavier weight vehicles and high volumes of traffic.

Heavy oil activity regions are one of the major recipients of grants under the program. Major grain and gravel haul routes are also eligible. A total of $1,839,848 was spent on project under this program in 1989-90.

Assistance for Construction of Roads on Indian Reserves

This program provides for the maintenance of designated roads on Indian reserves. Grants in the amount of $14,955 were paid during 1989-90.

Rural Development Corporations

This program encourages inter-municipal co-operation in socio-economic development. Financial assistance is provided to establish and operate a regional development body, comprised of four or more adjacent municipal members, one of which must be a rural municipality.

During 1989-90, eleven Rural Development Corporations (R.D.C.s) were provided with funds totalling $650,000.

Municipal Economic Development Capital Grant Program (MEDC)

A six year Municipal Economic Development Capital Grant Program was initiated during this fiscal year. The program's purpose is to enable rural municipalities to assist, financially, private for-profit businesses which emphasize

manufacturing and value added operations. Rural municipalities are allowed and encouraged to take an equity position when assisting businesses. This provision makes the program unique in Canada. 71 grant applications were received resulting in grants totalling $198,530.

Board of Examiners

The Board of Examiners (Rural) appointed under the provisions of The Department of Rural Development Act, is responsible for the issuance of certificates of qualification to administrators of rural municipalities. The Board consists of one staff member of the Department who serves as chairman, one representative from the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities and one representative from the Rural Municipal Administrators' Association.

Type of Certificate	Number Issued 1989-90
Rural Class "C"	11
Rural Class "A"	26
Rural "Superior A"	7